CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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PROGRESS REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO CONSIDER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE MEASURES TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY SEISMIC EVENTS

1. The Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, initially established in pursuance of the decision taken by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on 22 July 1976, held its thirty-third formal session from 2 to 13 March 1992, in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ola Dahlman of Sweden. This was the twenty-fifth session of the Group, convened under its new mandate by the decision of the Committee on Disarmament at its 48th meeting on 7 August 1979.

2. The Ad Hoc Group is open to all member States of the Conference on Disarmament. It is also open on a standing basis to all non-member States which have been invited upon their request by the Conference on Disarmament to participate in its work. Accordingly, scientific experts and representatives of the following member States of the Conference on Disarmament participated in the session: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

3. On the basis of previous invitations by the Conference on Disarmament, Scientific experts and representatives from the following non-member States of the Conference on Disarmament participated in the session: Austria, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

4. During the session, 28 papers containing information on national investigations related to the work of the Group were presented by experts from Australia, Austria, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Peru, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

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5. The Ad Hoc Group completed a technical and factual evaluation of its Second Technical Test (GSETT-2). The results are contained in its sixth main report, being submitted to the Conference on Disarmament for its consideration as document CD/1144. The Group envisages submitting during its next session extensive appendices to the sixth report, which will contain detailed technical material.

6. The Group noted that as a result of GSETT-2, a unique seismological database has been established and is being used as the basis for the ongoing comprehensive scientific evaluation by the Group. The Group noted with appreciation that the United States delegation had compiled this database on compact discs and had distributed them to all participants.

7. The Group considers that the results of the comprehensive scientific evaluation, together with the results of GSETT-2 (CD/1144), form a basis for reassessing the concepts for a global monitoring system proposed by the Group in its fifth report to the Conference presented in 1989 (CD/903 and Corr.1). Such a reassessment, which will also take into account recent scientific, technical and other developments, will be reported on during the first part of the 1993 session of the Conference.

8. The Ad Hoc Group continued its discussions on the future work of the Group remaining under its current mandate as regards the development and testing of the scientific aspects of a global system for international cooperative measures to detect and identify seismic events. The Group expressed the view that much valuable work remains to be done on the development of the global system taking into account an assessment of the implications of the results of GSETT-2 and advances in relevant technology.

The Group preliminarily discussed specific recommendations in this regard that include specific procedures for an experimental system of international exchange of data on seismic events and realistic testing of its components. This testing would include additional bilateral and multilateral cooperative experiments and would strive to have the widest possible global participation. The work would, inter alia, include:

- "CD-station" design and testing
- Site selection studies and experimental station deployments
- Use of new data communication technologies
- Study of the feasibility of reducing the number of IDCs including a proposal on the use of one IDC
- Study of the feasibility of the use of "open" stations
- Network studies in relation to network capability
- Development of detailed instructions for further experimental testing of the refined concepts
- Development of cost estimates

9. The Ad Hoc Group envisages continuing the discussion of its future work, including the incorporation of new technologies, at its next session.

10. The Ad Hoc Group noted with appreciation the convening of an informal technical workshop by the United States in Dallas, Texas, from 3 to 5 December 1991, to evaluate the results of GSETT-2, particularly the activities at national facilities. Many participants of the Group were able to attend and contribute to the workshop. This aided in the preparation of the Group's report on GSETT-2.

11. The Ad Hoc Group suggests that its next session, subject to approval by the Conference on Disarmament, should be convened from 27 July to 7 August 1992.